

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1 1. A method for distributing documents, comprising:
2 producing a first identifier, the first identifier including first information
3 indicative of a first server;
4 transmitting the first identifier to a client, the client associating the first
5 identifier with the first document;
6 transmitting a copy of the first document to the first server;
7 transmitting a commit request to the first server; and
8 in response to the commit request, the first server becoming responsive to
9 download requests for the first document, the download requests containing the first
10 information.

1 2. The method of claim 1 further including receiving a distribution list
2 associated with the first document, the distribution list identifying one or more other servers.

1 3. The method of claim 2 further including receiving a notification list
2 associated with the first document, the notification list identifying one or more users.

1 4. The method of claim 1 further including receiving a download request
2 from a second server, and in response thereto initiating a sequence of operations between the
3 first server and a second server so that the first document is transferred from the first server to
4 the second server, the download request including the first information.

1 5. The method of claim 1 further including distributing the first document
2 to a second server in response to the commit request.

1 6. The method of claim 5 wherein the distributing includes transferring
2 the first document to at least one intermediate server to produce an intermediate copy, and
3 transferring the intermediate copy from the at least one intermediate server to the second
4 server.

1 7. The method of claim 5 wherein the distributing comprises: informing
2 the second server of a distribution request; and in response to the distribution request, the
3 second server initiating a sequence of operations with the first server to transfer the first
4 document to the second server.

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1 8. The method of claim 5 wherein the distributing comprises: storing
2 second information to a first memory location in the first server; the second computer system
3 accessing the first memory location to detect for a presence of the second information; and
4 the second computer initiating a sequence of operations with the first computer system
5 wherein the first document is transferred to the second computer system in response to
6 detecting the presence of the second information.

1 9. The method of claim 1 further including receiving at the first server a
2 second document from the second server, the second document representative of a modified
3 version of the first document, the first server storing the second document while retaining the
4 first document, the first server distributing the document to other servers.

1 10. A method for distributing documents, comprising:
2 producing a first identifier, the first identifier including first information
3 indicative of a first server;
4 transmitting the first identifier from the first server to a client, the client
5 associating the first identifier with a first document;
6 transmitting a copy of the first document to the first server;
7 transmitting a commit request to the first server;
8 in response to the commit request, the first server distributing the first
9 document to a second server; and
10 making the first document available for download from the first server and
11 from the second server using at least the first information.

1 11. The method of claim 10 wherein the distributing includes transferring
2 the first document to at least one intermediate server to produce an intermediate copy, and
3 transferring the intermediate copy from the at least one intermediate server to the second
4 server.

1 12. The method of claim 10 wherein the distributing comprises: informing
2 the second server of a distribution request; and in response to the distribution request, the
3 second server initiating a sequence of operations with the first server to transfer the first
4 document to the second server.

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1 13. The method of claim 10 wherein the distributing comprises: storing a
2 transfer request to a first memory location in the first server; the second computer system
3 accessing the first memory location to detect for a presence of the transfer request; and the
4 second computer initiating a sequence of operations with the first computer system wherein
5 the first document is transferred to the second computer system in response to detecting the
6 presence of the transfer request.

1 14. The method of claim 10 wherein the first identifier includes a naming
2 component that is randomly generated.

1 15. A method for distributing documents, comprising:
2 receiving a first document at an originating server, the first document having
3 associated therewith a first identifier comprising first information indicative of the originating
4 server;
5 distributing the first document to a first plurality of servers;
6 at each of the first servers, associating a second identifier with the first
7 document, the second identifier including the first information;
8 receiving a second document at the first server, the second document being a
9 second version of the first document;
10 retaining the first document and the second document on the first server; and
11 distributing the second document to a second plurality of servers.

1 16. The method of claim 15 wherein the first plurality of servers is the
2 same as the second plurality of servers.

1 17. The method of claim 15 wherein the first plurality of servers is
2 different from the second plurality of servers.

1 18. The method of claim 15 wherein the first document is associated with a
2 first distribution list identifying the first plurality of servers.

1 19. The method of claim 15 wherein the second document is associated
2 with a second distribution list identifying the second plurality of servers.

1 20. The method of claim 15 wherein the first identifier is associated with
2 the second document, whereby the second document is accessed by the first identifier.

1 21. The method of claim 15 wherein the distributing includes the first
2 server initiating a sequence of operations with the second server to transfer a copy of the first
3 document from the first server to the second server.

1 22. The method of claim 15 wherein the distributing includes transferring a
2 copy of the first document to at least one intermediate computer system to produce an
3 intermediate copy, and transferring the intermediate copy from the at least one intermediate
4 computer system to the second server.

1 23. The method of claim 15 wherein the distributing includes informing
2 the second server of a transfer request, and in response thereto the second server initiating a
3 sequence of operations with the first server to transfer the first document to the second server.

1 24. A computer program product for document storage and distribution
2 comprising:
3 one or more computer readable media having contained thereon computer
4 program code suitable for being executed on a first server computer,
5 the first server computer having associated therewith first identification
6 information suitable to allow other computers to access the first server computer using the
7 first identification information,
8 the computer program code comprising:
9 first executable code effective for operating the first server computer to
10 receive a first document as an original document from a client computer;
11 second executable code effective for operating the first server
12 computer to associate a first identifier with the first document in response to receiving a
13 commit request from the client computer, the first identifier including the first identification
14 information; and
15 third executable code effective for operating the first server computer
16 to make available the first document for downloading, in response to the commit request.

1 25. The computer program product of claim 24 further comprising:
2 fourth executable code effective for operating the first server computer to
3 receive a second document from a second server computer, the second document being an
4 original document in the second server computer; and

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5 fifth executable code effective for operating the first server computer to assign
6 a third identifier to the second document, the third identifier including second identification
7 information, the second identification information suitable to allow other server computers to
8 access the second server computer using the second identification information.

1 26. The server computer program product of claim 24 further including
2 fourth executable code effective for operating the first server computer to initiate a sequence
3 of operations with a second server computer so that the first document is transferred from the
4 first server computer to the second server computer.

1 27. The server computer program product of claim 24 further including
2 fourth executable code effective for operating the first server computer to signal a second
3 server computer of a transfer request and to interact with a sequence of operations initiated by
4 the second server computer to transfer the first document to the second server computer.

1 28. The server computer program product of claim 24 further including
2 fourth executable code effective for operating the first server computer to store in a first
3 memory location second information indicative of a transfer request, wherein a second server
4 computer accesses the first memory location to detect for a presence of the second
5 information, the second server computer initiating a sequence of operations with the first
6 server computer wherein the first document is transferred to the second server computer in
7 response to detecting the presence of the second information.

1 29. A method for distributing revisions of a document collection
2 comprising:
3 assigning a first layer number to a first document collection, documents in the
4 first document collection being accessible based at least on the first layer number, the
5 documents in the first document collection constituting a first version of the document
6 collection;
7 obtaining a new session collection;
8 uploading revised documents into the session collection;
9 uploading the first layer number into a document which indicates the previous
10 layer;
11 receiving a commit request and in response thereto, assigning a second layer
12 number to the session collection, the session collection now being a second document

13 collection, documents in the second document collection being accessible based at least on
 14 the second layer number, the documents in the second document collection constituting a
 15 second version of the document collection; and
 16 providing access via the second layer number to those documents in the first
 17 document collection that have not been modified.

1 30. The method of claim 29 wherein the first document collection is stored
 2 on a first server and the session collection is stored on a second server, the method further
 3 including uploading the session collection from the second server to the first server.

1 31. The method of claim 29 wherein providing access includes creating
 2 symbolic links from the first document collection to the second document collection,
 3 symbolically linking those files in the first document collection that have not been modified
 4 to the second document collection.

1 32. The method of claim 29 further including providing a top layer
 2 number, a most recent version of the document collection being accessible based on the top
 3 layer number, the most recent version of the document collection being associated with the a
 4 highest numbered layer number.